

Issue NE-CW3102, released August 5, 2002, by the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA . For more information contact us at: 100 Centennial Mall North, Suite 298, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-437-5541, e-mail at nass-ne@nass.usda.gov, Internet at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

Agricultural Summary: For the week ending August 4, 2002, temperatures near or above the 100 degree mark and minimal rainfall resulted in continued deterioration of crops, according to USDA’s Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Irrigation systems continued in full use where water allocations permitted but in some cases were not able to keep up with crop demands. Grasshoppers continued to present problems. Producer activities included cutting dryland crops for silage or hay and livestock care.

This release is based on reports and data from county extension educators, FSA county directors, NOAA, and the High Plains Climate Center. Weekly Weather and Crop reports back to 1947 and current county specific comments can be found at: <http://www.agr.state.ne.us/agstats/cropwthr.htm>

Weather Summary: Temperatures averaged from normals to six degrees above normals across the State. Precipitation was scattered and light statewide with a few locations in the eastern third recording amounts in excess of one inch.

Field Crops Report: All corn condition rated 30 percent good and excellent, well below the average of 67. Irrigated corn condition declined and rated 50 percent good and excellent, below the five year average of 76. Dryland corn declined and rated 3 percent good and excellent, far below the average of 52. The crop was 93 percent silked, the same as last year and near the average of 94. There were 46 percent of the fields in the dough stage by Sunday, ahead of last year at 36 and average at 26. Fields in the East Central, South Central, and Southeast Districts were beginning to dent. Some producers were beginning to harvest dryland corn for silage with testing being done to monitor nitrate levels.

Soybean condition declined again last week and rated 27 percent very poor, 28 poor, 30 fair, 14 good, and 1 excellent, well below last year and average. Ninety-five percent of the fields had bloomed, nearly a week ahead of last year’s 89 and average at 91. In 59 percent of the fields, pods were being set, ahead of last year at 46 and average at 48.

Sorghum condition declined and rated 37 percent very poor, 37 poor, 22 fair, and 4 good, well below last year and average. Fifty-two percent of the fields had headed, near last year at 51 and average at 50.

Oat harvest was near completion with 97 percent combined, over a week ahead of last year at 88 and average at 90.

Dry bean fields had bloomed on 78 percent of the acreage, behind last year’s 85 and average at 84. Pods had been set on 33 percent of the acreage, behind last year’s 49 and average at 40. Condition rated 4 percent very poor, 19 poor, 33 fair, 38 good, and 6 excellent.

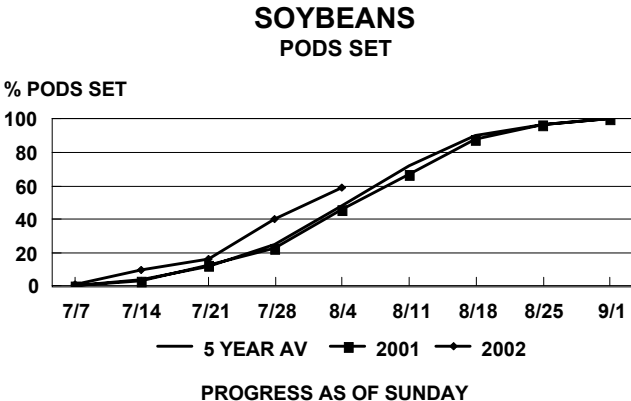
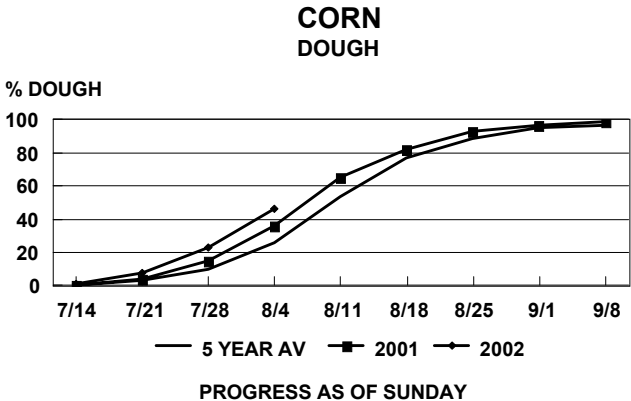
Alfalfa condition declined and rated 43 percent very poor, 32 poor, 17 fair, and 8 good, well below last year and average. Third cuttings made good progress where growth was sufficient for harvest and rated 40 percent complete, well ahead of last year at 21 and average at 15.

Livestock, Pasture, and Range Report: Pasture and range conditions continue to decline and rated 65 percent very poor, 25 poor, and 10 fair, well below average. Producers continued to provide supplemental feed, move cattle to dry lots, and/or cull deeper into their herds.

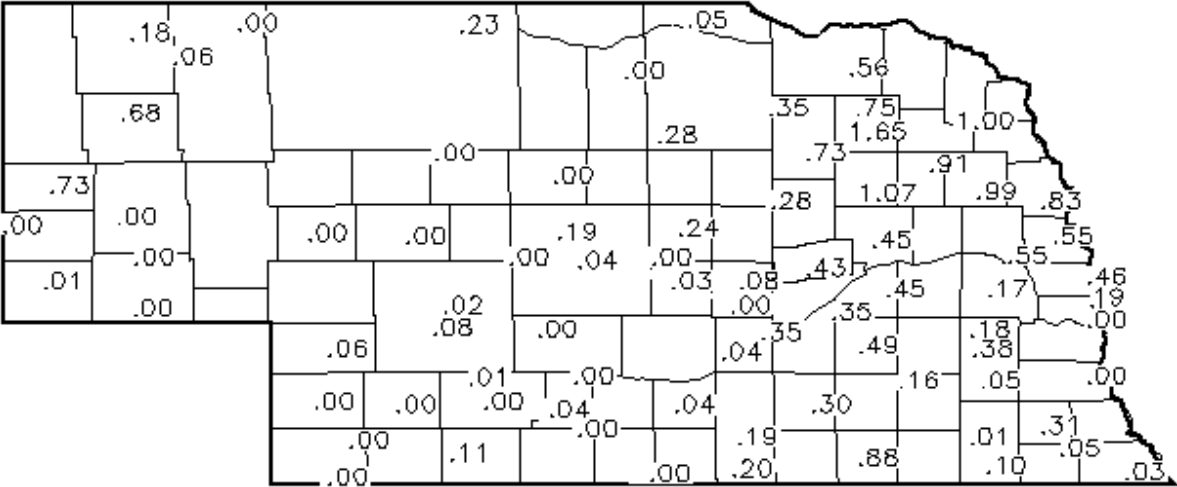
Progress and Conditions: By District, Nebraska, as of August 4, 2002

Item	Agricultural Statistics Districts								State	Last Week	Last Year	Average
	NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
% Corn Silked	59	92	95	100	94	88	97	97	93	79	93	94
% Corn Dough	15	19	40	40	44	34	76	66	46	23	36	26
% Soybeans Blooming	¹	96	97	84	90	91	99	100	95	88	89	91
% Soybeans Setting Pods	¹	88	63	49	50	71	70	59	59	40	46	48
% Sorghum Headed	0	27	35	42	54	61	39	55	52	31	51	50
% Alfalfa 3 rd Cutting	0	54	39	26	40	56	60	59	40	26	21	15
Days Suitable for Fieldwork	7.0	7.0	6.3	6.8	6.7	7.0	7.0	6.8	6.8	6.5	6.2	5.8
Topsoil Moisture												
- % Very short	91	54	52	83	74	90	92	94	75	73	13	16
- % Short	6	44	18	8	22	6	8	6	19	21	34	33
- % Adequate	3	2	11	9	4	4	0	0	4	6	53	50
- % Surplus	0	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1
Subsoil Moisture												
- % Very Short	94	47	72	79	77	93	90	85	76	75	12	16
- % Short	6	29	17	21	22	7	10	15	17	23	38	32
- % Adequate	0	24	0	0	1	0	0	0	6	2	50	51
- % Surplus	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1

¹ Data not available.



Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending August 4, 2002



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - August 4, 2002

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.18	.19	1.06	.10	.35	.06	.07	.35
Total since April 1	3.99	5.93	10.42	6.49	11.01	4.96	6.49	10.67
Normal since April 1	10.36	12.56	14.19	13.47	14.77	12.07	13.24	15.19
Total as % of normal	38%	47%	73%	48%	74%	40%	49%	70%

Source: High Plains Climate Center data as of 8:00 a.m.

Temperature and Growing Degree Days: By Location, Nebraska,
Week Ending Sunday, August 4, 2002

Station		Temperature				Growing Degree Days Since April 15		
		Extremes		Average	Departure	Last Week	Current	Normal
		High	Low					
NW	Alliance	101	49	73	1	139	1684	1648
	Scottsbluff	101	50	74	1	145	1787	1646
	Sidney	103	55	77	5	165	1808	1687
NC	Ainsworth	107	53	80	6	174	1945	1813
	Arthur	105	54	77	3	162	1798	1774
	O'Neill	104	52	78	3	165	1962	1895
NE	Concord	97	52	76	1	164	1986	1941
	Elgin	98	53	77	2	167	1999	1941
	West Point	98	52	76	0	162	2034	2049
C	Grand Island	98	51	78	2	166	2060	1964
	Lexington	100	52	78	4	176	2108	1931
	Ord	105	50	79	3	169	2017	1949
EC	Lincoln	102	58	82	4	190	2269	2150
	Central City	98	49	77	2	166	2080	1995
	Mead	100	51	78	1	171	2144	2119
SW	Champion	107	49	77	3	158	1918	1816
	North Platte	104	48	79	4	168	1992	1835
	Curtis	108	51	80	6	171	2033	1864
SC	Arapahoe	105	50	76	2	151	1809	1767
	Minden	98	52	77	2	165	2060	1937
	Red Cloud	105	60	82	6	184	2249	1987
SE	Beatrice	101	58	80	2	180	2188	2150
	Clay Center	98	52	77	1	165	2049	1983
	Nemaha	99	62	82	5	193	2304	2170

Source: High Plains Climate Center.